

Date: June 25, 2013  
To: Federal Communication Commission  
From: John Hart, Jr. KØTTY  
Reference: RM11699

I have been a Radio Amateur for 54 years and hold an Amateur Extra Class license (KØTTY) as well as a General Radiotelephone (previously First Class) license. I am also a long-time professional consultant in the public safety radio communications field.

I am categorically opposed to the use of encryption on Amateur Radio. If messages are so critical, they should be sent via other means. Or, use Morse Code (!).

This is another indication that people who are obtaining Amateur Radio licenses think they are becoming public safety communicators. In fact, it has been my experience in the past few years that most recent licensees do not even own Amateur Radio equipment; no less know how to operate it.

This RM could lead to further erosion of the intent of the Amateur Radio service and lead to further unlawful use of the Amateur Radio spectrum.

If the FCC would monitor the Citizen's Band frequencies it would find a virtual lunatic fringe of people using radio to broadcast unlawful content, music, foul language, and so on. Encryption on the Amateur Radio frequencies would only serve to further this kind of disregard for the lawful use of valuable radio spectrum. It is a well-known fact that much Amateur Radio equipment winds up in the hands of CB and other unlawful operators.

This is an ill-advised request and I am surprised the FCC would even consider it.